

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 SCS-06
CA-01 MCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 /105 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9080

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, CASC, ELAB, PINS, CI
SUBJ: SIX HUNDRED MAY DAY DETAINEES RELEASED ON PERSONAL RECOGNIZANCE

REF: SANTIAGO 3207

1. POLICE RELEASED FROM CUSTODY ALL THOSE DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH A BANNED MAY DAY CELEBRATION (REFTEL). AFTER ORIGINALLY SPEAKING OF 150 ARRESTS THE GOC NOW ACKNOWLEDGES PICKING UP APPROXIMATELY 600 INCLUDING 140 WOMEN AND 16 FOREIGNERS. EYEWITNESSES, INCLUDING THREE AMERICAN CITIZENS, SAW MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED MEN AND WOMEN BEING HELD AT THE SIXTH PRECINCT POLICE STATION, WHICH SERVED AS A PRINCIPAL PROCESSING POINT. THIS IS THE LARGEST MASS DETENTION IN THE POST-COUP ERA.

2. POLICE BOOKED HUNDREDS ON THE CHARGE OF CAUSING DISORDER ON A PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE. THEY ARE TO APPEAR IN COURT LATER THIS WEEK AND, IT IS ASSUMED, WILL BE LET OFF WITH A NOMINAL FINE. VIRTUALLY ALL WERE OUT OF JAIL BY MID-NIGHT, MAY 1.

3. AS REPORTED REFTEL, POLICE USED NIGHTSTICKS TO DRIVE
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PEOPLE INTO WAITING POLICE BUSES AND SORTED THEM OUT AT THE STATION. IN ADDITION TO "NEWSWEEK" CORRESPONDENT MOREAU AND TWO U.S. PRIESTS, A COUPLE OF DUTCH TRADE UNION VISITORS, A SWEDISH GIRL, A SPANISH, FRENCH AND BELGIUM PRIESTS WERE AMONG THE FOREIGNERS. MOREAU TELLS US THAT ONCE HE PERSUADED POLICE OF HIS US PRESS CREDENTIALS THEY PLACED A CALL TO THE EMBASSY ON HIS BEHALF. THE PRIESTS REPORT THAT POLICE AT

THE PRECINCT ASKED ALL FOREIGNERS TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AND TREATED THEM WITH SPECIAL CARE. A CONSULAR OFFICER RETRIEVED ALL THREE AMERICANS WITH LITTLE DIFFICULTY AND HAD THEM OUT BY 1330. THEY WERE NOT CHARGED.

4. ERNESTO VOGEL AND MANUEL BUSTOS, TWO LEADERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC "DINAMICOS", WERE FREED BY MIDNIGHT. VOGEL REPORTS THAT CNI AGENTS SUBJECTED HIM TO CONSIDERABLE (LARGELY VERBAL) ABUSE BEFORE DROPPING HIM OFF AT THE POLICE STATION. HE WAS FIRST BOOKED BY POLICE AND, LATER IN THE AFTERNOON, BY CNI. VOGEL TELLS TUS THAT FEW MID-LEVEL COMMUNIST TRADE UNIONISTS APPEARED AT THE DEMONSTRATION BUT THAT SEVERAL SENIOR PCCH LABOR LEADERS WALKED ABOUT THE AREA WITH IMPUNITY. IN ANY CASE THE DEMONSTRATION WAS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY DEMOCRATIC AND COMMUNIST UNION LEADERS. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SUCH EXUBERANT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AS THE UBIQUITOUS GUVILLERMO YUNGE MOBILIZED SOME UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FOR THE AFFAIR. YUNGE WAS AMONG THOSE DETAINED.

5. THE PRESS IN CHILE GAVE THE DETENTIONS VERY LITTLE PLAY. STORIES APPEARED ON INSIDE PAGES, OVERSHADOWED BY THE MUCH GREATER SPACE GIVEN THE OFFICIAL CEREMONIES (SEPTEL). TODAY THE PRESS IS EMPHASIZING THE NUMBER OF "FOREIGN AGITATORS" INVOLVED, A LINE WHICH WILL PLAY EFFECTIVELY ON NATIONALIST SENTIMENTS.

6. COMMENT: IT IS TRIBUTE TO THE IMPROVED PERCEPTION OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AMONG CHILEANS THEMSELVES THAT ABOUT 3 THOUSAND CITIZENS WOULD CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY BY SHOWING UP FOR A BANNED DEMONSTRATION. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE COUP, THE GOC COPEL WITH THE TYPE OF CIVIL PROTEST WHICH IS THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF AN OPEN SOCIETY. BY MOVING FIRMLY, THE GOVERNMENT SOUGHT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT WOULD SET THE PACE FOR LIBER

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ALIZING THE CHILEAN ENVIRONMENT. EVEN THOUGH THE GOC CONTROLLED THE DEMONSTRATION WITHOUT EXCESSIVE BRUTALITY, OPPONENTS OF THE REGIM E WERE ABLE TO SHOW THAT: A) DESPITE RECENT LIBERALIZING MEASURES, OPPOSITION TO THE REGIME CONTINUES; AND B) THOSE DARING TO EXERCISE THE FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY ARE STILL SUBJECT TO ARREST AND DETENTION - ALBEIT TEMPORARY. THE PRESENCE OF 10 FOREIGNERS AMONG THE DETAINEES ENSURES THAT THE OPPOSITION'S POINT OF VIEW WILL GET WIDE INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE ALTHOUGH THIS WILL ALSO BUTTRESS THE "FOREIGN INTERVENTION" ARGUMENT.

7. THE CUT-IN-EXILE INVITED (AND PRESUMABLY ARRANGED THE FINANCING FOR) FOREIGN LABOR LEADERS -- PARTICULARLY EUROPEAN -- TO COME TO CHILE TO DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY

ON MAY 1. FOR THIS EVENT THE DEMOCRATIC GROUP OF TEN
AND COMMUNIST LEADERS MADE COMMON CAUSE. NO DOUBT EACH GROUP
THINKS TO EXPLOIT THE OTHER.
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